



State of Louisiana

Division of Administration
Office of Information Technology

To: Providers of Broadband Services in Louisiana

On July 1, 2009, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) issued a Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) announcing the availability of funds and providing guidelines for the State Broadband Data and Development Program (BDDP) pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. (A copy of the NOFA and any amendments or clarifications can be found at http://www.broadbandusa.gov/broadband_mapping.htm.) The BDDP will fund projects that collect comprehensive and accurate state-level broadband mapping data, develop state-level broadband maps, aid in the development and maintenance of a national broadband map, and fund statewide planning initiatives directed at broadband planning.

On August 19, 2009, the State of Louisiana Office of Information Technology (State) issued a solicitation for proposals for the Louisiana Broadband Mapping Program. The State selected Michael Baker Jr., Inc. (Baker) on September 22, 2009 for award. Baker (NYSE Amex: BKR), founded in 1940, provides professional engineering and consulting expertise for public and private sector clients worldwide. For more information on Baker, you can visit their website at <http://www.mbakercorp.com>.

Baker will act on the behalf of the State of Louisiana to provide the State and NTIA with the NOFA specified collection of data for broadband service availability from cable, digital subscriber line (DSL), wireless, and applicable other providers; associated service characteristics; broadband service provider and "middle mile" infrastructure data; data pertaining to community anchor institutions; geospatial mapping and validation of collected data; semi-annual updates to the inventory of collected information; and development of an online mapping application to be hosted by the State.

The NTIA describes broadband service as either commercial or non-commercial distribution of data transmission technology that provides two-way data transmission to and from the Internet with advertised speeds of at least 768 kilobits per second (kbps) downstream and greater than 200 kbps upstream to end users.

On November 30, 2009, Louisiana was awarded a grant for Broadband Mapping by NTIA. In the coming weeks, Baker will be contacting each broadband provider to request the data as described above. Please make every effort to comply promptly and fully with the request. For those providers that choose not to comply, please note that NTIA can request the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to exercise its authority to compel data production from any broadband service provider subject to its jurisdiction.

It is also in a broadband provider's best interest to respond promptly and fully, as the broadband inventory maps derived from these data may result in government-subsidized broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas. Providers that do not respond may face subsidized competition in areas that they already serve. Baker is prepared to execute Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDA's) in accordance with the Confidentiality Requirements as describe in the NOFA and its associated amendments and/or clarifications.

I look forward to your organization's cooperation in these efforts. Your service in support of this initiative will be of invaluable benefit to the citizens of Louisiana.

Regards,



Ed Driesse
State Chief Information Office
Division of Administration
State of Louisiana

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